Practices by manpower exporting agencies

*2774. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether Government are aware of bogus manpower exporting agencies duping innocent job seekers abroad;

(b) if so, the steps taken to monitor these agencies; and

(c) whether Government would put in place a mechanism to have tight vigil on such agencies operating in the country to protect interests of the job seekers.

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken under Section 24 of the Emigration Act, 1983 through the State Police Authorities, to curb the activities of the illegal/bogus recruiting agencies involved in exploitation of Indian emigrant workers seeking employment overseas. All the State/Union Territories have also being requested to instruct the Police Authorities and Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates and sensitize them about the need to curb the illegal activities of unscrupulous agents.

(c) There are adequate provisions in the Emigration Act, 1983 to put a check on the illegal recruitment agencies. All offences under the Act, are cognizable under Section 26 of the Emigration Act. The Central Government are also taking steps to bring about coordinated action with State Governments to curb this malpractice.

Indian labourers in Dubai

†2775. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-resident Indian labourers engaged in the construction of Boorj Dubai Tower have stopped construction work in protest of low wages and misbehaviour during past days;

(b) whether Government have ordered any inquiry in this connection; and

(c) if so, the details of the information available with Government in this regard and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) As reported by the Consulate General of India (CGI), Dubai, a large number of workers in Boorj Dubai project stopped work on 22.03.2005. A team from the CGI along with officials from Permanent Committee of Labour Affairs of the Dubai Government visited the work site. The CGI officials separately met a large number of Indian workers working for the project. The complaints regarding loss of overtime pay owing to delay in commuting to and from the work site and introduction of an inadequate number of punching machines to verify attendance was taken up with the company management, who assured that these will be addressed expeditiously. The workers have, in the meanwhile, resumed work on the project.

Harassment of Indian Women Abroad

2776. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing number of complaints of ill treatment and harassment meted out to Indian women living abroad;

(b) if so, the nature of ill-treatment and harassment which are being meted out;

(c) whether Government have taken any action to check such incidents in future; and

(d) the countries where Indian women are facing ill-treatment and harassment?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) There have been a few complaints of harassment/ ill-treatment ranging from non-payment of wages to physical harassment of Indian women abroad particularly those working as housemaids in Gulf countries. Keeping this in view, the Government has already banned grant of emigration clearance to women below the age of thirty years if they are seeking employment as housemaids/domestic workers in any foreign country including those going to Gulf countries.